

Serial No. 10/623,774
Amdt. dated July 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2007

Docket No. LT-0040

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 18-20 are pending. Claims 1, 8, and 18 have been amended and claims 14-17 have been cancelled.

Reconsideration of the application with respect to the requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being obvious in view a Hashimoto-Kim combination. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, in step a), detecting respective playback times of said titles of the optical disc. In addition to these features, claim 1 recites that “ the playback times for each of the said titles are included with management information stored in a predetermined area of the disc.” As acknowledged in the Office Action, the Hashimoto patent publication fails to teach or suggest respective playback times of titles in the optical disc.

To make up for these deficiencies, the Kim patent was cited. The Kim patent discloses determining playback times of multiple titles stored on a DVD. The playback times are determined mathematically, based on time codes stored on the disc. The Kim patent, therefore, does not disclose the features added by amendment to claim 1, including storing the playback times themselves with management information in the predetermined area of the disc. Put differentially, the Kim patent must compute the playback times of each of the titles stored on a

DVD. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the playback times themselves are stored on the DVD, and are used as a basis for selecting a title for reproduction.

In view of these differences, it is respectfully submitted that a Hashimoto-Kim combination does not render claim 1 or any of its dependent claims obvious.

Dependent claim 6 recites that the “playback time of each of said titles is detected as the sum of said playback times of said video data.” Thus, in claim 6, each of the playback times stored on the disc are added to generate a sum of playback times. The Hashimoto and Kim patents do not teach storing playback times on the disc. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 6 is allowable not only for its dependency from claim 1 but also based on the features separated recited therein.

Claim 8 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from a Hashimoto-Kim combination. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 8 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for being anticipated by the Hashimoto publication. Claim 18 has been amended to recite that “said navigation information including playback times for each of said titles, the one of said titles forcibly reproduced selected based on a corresponding one of the playback times stored in said predetermined area of the DVD.” The Hashimoto publication does not disclose storing playback times on a DVD, and thus does not disclose the features added by amendment to claim 18.

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Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 18-20 are allowable over the Hashimoto publication.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Samuel W. Ntiros, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim, Esq.
Registration No. 36,186
Samuel W. Ntiros, Esq.
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK:SWN:lhd:jlg:kzw
Date: July 19, 2007
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610